

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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William (Bill) J. Lyons, Secretary

October 1, 2003

To All Interested Parties:

The Department of Food and Agriculture received the enclosed emergency petition from the Alliance of Western Milk Producers today, October 1, 2003.

Pursuant to regulation, within fifteen days of the receipt of this petition, the Department must either schedule the matter for public hearing or notify the petitioner in writing that the petition is being denied.

The Department will carefully weigh the merits of this petition and respond no later than October 16, 2003 with a decision on whether or not to call a hearing on the matter raised in the petition.

A copy of the petition can be accessed from the Department's website at www.cdfa.ca.gov/dairy. From the dairy home page, click on *Announcements, Hearings and Statutes* then *Dairy Hearing Matrix* and then go to #4, *Plant Depooling*.

Should you have any questions concerning the petition or the process by which it is reviewed, please contact Don Shippelhouse or Tom Gossard at the telephone number or e-mail address above.

Sincerely,

David K. Ikari, Chief
Dairy Marketing Branch

Enclosure